

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph on page 2, beginning at line 2 as follows:

To meet such requirement, the disposable diaper including a plurality of splits facilitating discharged urine to spread in the transverse direction and at the same time in the longitudinal direction is disclosed, for example, in Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 1997-51913A. These ~~splits~~ slits are arranged so as to be spaced apart one from another not only in the transverse direction but also in the longitudinal direction and penetrate the core in its thickness direction. Along these splits, the top- and backsheet are put flat and joined together so that the topsheet forms grooves along these splits. With the diaper disclosed in the above-cited Publication, discharged urine is guided into these grooves to spread in the longitudinal direction and at the same time permeates through the core through its area defined between each pair of the grooves which are adjacent in the longitudinal direction to spread in the transverse direction.

Please amend the paragraph on page 2, beginning at line 18 as follows:

In the case of the diaper disclosed in the above-cited Publication, immediately after it has been discharged onto the topsheet, urine spreads on the topsheet and simultaneously flows into the respective grooves. Depending on the particular spot onto which urine has been discharged, there is a possibility that urine might not immediately flow into the grooves and consequently retard urine to spread in the longitudinal direction. If urine is retarded to spread in the longitudinal direction, most of urine will spread in the transverse direction of the diaper and not only make it impossible to utilize the entire area of the core but also cause sideways leakage of urine from the crotch region.

Please amend the paragraph on page 28, beginning at line 23 as follows:

These diapers 1A, 1B and 1C may be exploited also in a manner that the upper and lower sections 14, 15 defining the tubular liquid passage 16 have the same fiber density as the subsections 17, 18 of the upper and lower sections 14, 15 except the tubular liquid passage have. It is also

possible to use two or more layers of hydrophilic fibrous nonwoven fabrics laminated one upon another to form the liquid-pervious first sheet 3.